

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007883  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /057 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ  
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST  
-----124691 120708Z /14

R 112253Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PDIP, PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: EMBASSY ADDIS AND NAIROBI BASED WESTERN  
CORRESPONDENTS

1. FOLLOWING SEVERAL INQUIRES FROM JOURNALISTS ON THE  
SUBJECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA  
WITH WESTERN NEWSMEN, DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOLLOWING  
GUIDANCE FOR OFF THE RECORD USE. DESPITE PREVIOUS QUES-  
TIONS, MATTER WAS NOT RAISED AT JANUARY 11 BRIEFING.

2. QUOTE: QUESTION: HAS THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT  
COMPLAINED ABOUT THE US AND OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES IN  
ADDIS ABABA TALKING TO WESTERN REPORTERS VIA LONG DISTANCE  
TELEPHONE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, AND IS THE US  
RESPONDING TO THIS COMPLAINT?

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ANSWER: AS FAR AS THE US IS CONCERNED, THE ANSWER TO BOTH  
QUESTIONS IS YES. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THERE ARE NO WESTERN  
REPORTERS BASED IN ADDIS ABABA. OUR RELATIONS WITH  
ETHIOPIA ARE VERY SENSITIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE DO  
NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO RISK FURTHER  
EXACERBATING THE SITUATION BY CONDUCTING PUBLIC TELEPHONE  
CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESS REPORTERS OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA ABOUT

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA WHICH THEN BECOME THE

BASIS FOR CRITICAL FOREIGN PRESS STORIES ABOUT WHICH  
THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED SERIOUS CONCERN.  
OUR EMBASSIES OVERSEAS ARE CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING  
WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND REPORTING  
TO OUR GOVERNMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY.  
ALTHOUGH WE TRY TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AND OPEN WITH THE  
PRESS AS POSSIBLE, THIS IS NOT THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF  
OUR MISSIONS AND WHERE PROVIDING SUCH INFORMATION WOULD  
UNDERMINE THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A  
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 11 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, PDIP, PFOR, ET, US  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
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**Review Markings:**  
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